

LINE GUIDE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention overcomes many of the disadvantages of prior art refrigeration line installation techniques by providing a line guide which, when properly mounted in the horizontal top plate of a structure, enables one person to properly install refrigeration lines. The line guide is adaptable to both wood and metal frame construction.

10 In one embodiment, the line guide has a unitary body comprised of an attachment bracket with a guide tube formed therein. The guide tube's axial orientation changes over its length. The guide tube's change in axial orientation may be fixed or variable. In addition, the guide tube may be detachable from the bracket enabling guide tubes of different fixed orientations to be used in combination with the same bracket.

15 In one embodiment, the line guide comprises a C-shaped bracket configured so as to be mounted in a notch formed in the horizontal top plate. In another configuration, the line guide comprises a U-shaped bracket which actually replaces a gap portion of the horizontal top plate.

20 In another embodiment, the line guide is adapted to soffit installations for use in retrofit applications. A guide tube is positioned through a hole formed in the soffit of the structure thereby allowing access to the overhead space. Annular bracket fittings help secure the guide tube in the soffit hole.